

Message Text

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66

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 L-02 SR-02 ORM-01 PRS-01 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 SY-04 H-01

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R 062123Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1649

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINS

SUBJECT: ASYLEES KEEP COMING OVER THE WALLS

REF: SANTIAGO 7738

1. SUMMARY. THE LATAM EMBASSIES IN SANTIAGO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF CHILEANS SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM, WITH LITTLE INDICATION OF GOC OBJECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY SOME 32 NEW ASYLEES TOOK REFUGE IN EMBASSY OF VENEZUELA. THESE ARE DESCRIBED AS 27 MEN AND 5 WOMEN, ALL IN THEIR MID-TWENTIES, AND ALL MEMBERS OF OUTLAWED MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR), COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES. COSTA RICAN EMBASSY RECEIVED 5 PERSONS ON DEC 18 AND 2 MORE NEW YEAR'S EVE. THESE JOIN THE MORE THAN 200 IN THE ITALIAN EMBASSY RESIDENCE AND 60-ODD IN THE COLOMBIAN EMBASSY.

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3. ACCORDING TO PRESS STORIES, GOC IS PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE

SAFE-CONDUCTS TO NEWEST ASYLEES TO LEAVE CHILE, BUT WILL INSIST ON ESTABLISHING EXACT IDENTITY OF EACH ASYLEE BEFORE GRANTING DEPARTURE. (ITALIAN EMBASSY RECENTLY PERMITTED TEAM OF GOC CIVIL REGISTRY PERSONNEL TO ENTER PREMISES TO SURVEY ASYLEES FOR POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION.)

4. COMMENT. WITH DEPARTURE OF MOST ASYLEES WHO TOOK REFUGEE IN FIRST MONTHS AFTER COUP, PROBLEM APPEARED TO BE PRETTY MUCH SOLVED, AND BOTH WE AND WORLD PRESS SO REPORTED. ITALIAN EMBASSY CASE WAS SPECIAL PROBLEM, AND AFTER GOC WARNED EMBASSIES IN DEC 1973 THAT ONLY SIGNERS OF ASYLUM TREATIES (IE. LATIN AMERICANS) COULD EXPECT SAFECONDUCTS, NUMBER OF ASYLUM SEEKERS DROPPED OFF DRAMATICALLY. HOWEVER, COMBINATION OF GOC PRESSURE ON MIR AND PERHAPS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN CHILE HAS BROUGHT RENEWAL OF PROBLEM AND SIGNIFICANT FLOW OF NEW ASYLEES.

5. GOC APPEARS TO HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT ASYLEES. PHYSICAL TASK OF ADEQUATELY GUARDING NUMEROUS PREMISES INVOLVED (BOTH CHANCERIES AND RESIDENCES) TO EXCLUDE AGILE YOUNG PEOPLE FROM SLIPPING OVER WALLS IS ONEROUS. IN MOST CASES, GOC IS CONTENT ENOUGH TO SEE POTENTIAL OR ACTUAL TROUBLE-MAKERS DEPART FROM CHILE, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A FEW, SUCH AS MIR LEADER HUMBERTO SOTOMAYOR IN ITALIAN EMBASSY, UPON WHOM GOC MIGHT LIKE TO GET ITS HANDS. AS NOTED IN REFTTEL, POLICE HAVE CAPTURED A FEW PERSONS TRYING TO ENTER DIPLOMATIC PREMISES TO TAKE ASYLUM, BUT THIS SEEMS TO BE MORE OFTEN DUE TO THE COINCIDENTAL PRESENCE OF POLICE PATROLS OR TO DELIBERATE CALLS FROM EMBASSIES INVOLVED.

6. GOC HAS IN ANY EVENT SHOWN CONSIDERABLE CARE IN RESPECTING DIPLOMATIC PREMISES AND HAS BEEN REASONABLY PROMPT IN AUTHORIZING DEPARTURES UNDER SAFECONDUCT. BLAME FOR DELAY NOW SEEMS TO LIE PRIMARILY WITH GOVSJVPTS# GRANTING THE ASYLUM

IN ARRANGING EVACUATION FROM CHILE AND ENTRY INTO OWN TERRITORY. BARRING ANY DRASTIC AND SO FAR UNFORESEEN CHANGE IN GOC POLICY, WE EXPECT TO SEE A RELATIVELY SMALL BUT CONTINUING FLOW OF CHILEANS INTO THE RESIGNED BUT WELCOMING ARMS OF THE MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SYMPATHETIC LA'S, AND PERHAPS THE LONG-SUFFERING ITALIANS. THOMPSON

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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